

Remarks/Arguments:

The present invention relates to a refrigerator having a water feeder at its door. Specifically, a water storage tank is mounted on the inside of the refrigerator door.

On page 2, the Official Action rejects claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee (5,971,213). It is respectfully submitted, however, that the claims are patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Lee teaches a water dispenser for a refrigerator. Specifically, a water tank is attached to the inside of the refrigerator door and a dispensing hose is protruding through the refrigerator door.

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

... the water storage tank is fixed to a projection provided on the inner face of the door at its upper section, and lower projection of the tank, a coupling section between the tank and the feeding tube, is fixed to the inner face of the door by a stopper.

Claim 1 relates to a water storage tank that is fixed to the inside of a refrigerator door. Specifically, a projection provided on the inner part of the refrigerator door fixes the upper section of the water storage tank. Furthermore, a lower projection of the tank is fixed to the inner face of the door by way of a stopper. This feature is found in the originally filed application on page 5, lines 3-8, and furthermore in Figs. 2, 7 and 8. No new matter has been added.

Fig. 2 of Lee shows water tank 11 attached to the inside of the refrigerator door. Fig. 2 also shows a dispensing hose 12 which protrudes through the outside of the refrigerator door for dispensing water. Lee, however, does not teach how water tank 11 is specifically mounted to the inside of the door. Applicants' claim 1 is different than Lee, because of the manner in which the water storage tank is mounted to the inside portion of the refrigerator door ("*water source tank is fixed to a projection provided on the inner face of the door at its upper section, and lower projection of the tank, a coupling section between the tank and the feeding tube, is fixed to the inner face of the door by a stopper*"). As shown in Applicants' Fig. 8, storage tank

17 is mounted to projections 14a disposed on both sides of the inner door face 14. The weight of the water tank 17 is supported by projections 14a on both sides. In Fig. 2, lower projection 17c of the water tank which a coupling section between tank 17 and feeding tube 18 is fixed through the inner door face 14 by stopper 32. Therefore, Applicants' claimed water tank is fixed to the inside of the refrigerator door from the upper portion and the bottom portion of the tank. Support for this feature can be found on at least page 5, lines 3-8, of the specification.

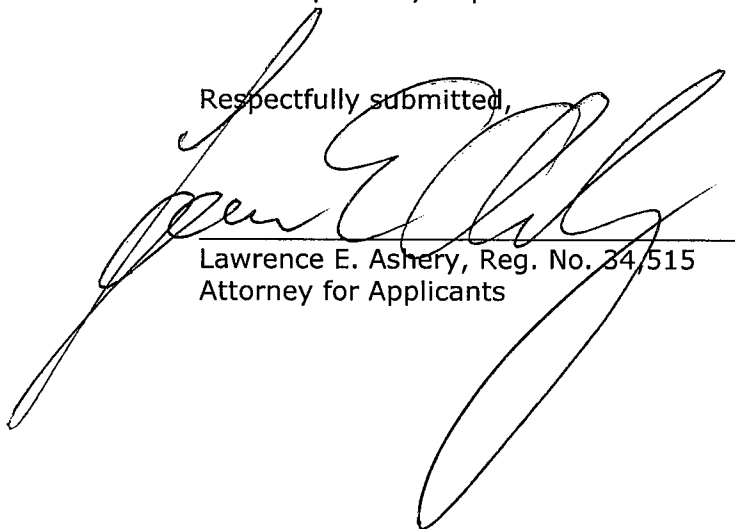
It is because Applicant's included the feature of "*the water storage tank is fixed to a projection provided on the inner face of the door at its upper section, and lower projection of the tank, a coupling section between the tank and the feeding tube, is fixed to the inner face of the door by a stopper*", that the following advantages are achieved. An advantage is to secure the water tank to the inside of the refrigerator door with minimal wasted space and furthermore to not require a pump to dispense the water. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

Dependent claim 12 has been cancelled.

Claims 2-11 and 13 include all the features of claim 1 from which they depend. Thus, claims 2-11 and 13 are also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-referenced application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515
Attorney for Applicants

LEA/dmw

Dated: March 11, 2008

P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700